

1901 is the first year that a census for Ireland survives in its entirety. Due to the destruction, both accidental and intentional, of Irish census records, Irish researchers must use records that were not intended to be used as censuses. A census substitute is a list of names in an area. It might originally have been a tax list, a muster roll, a religious census, or a kind of land record, or another type of record. Coverage in a census substitute depends upon the purpose for which it was created. A tax record for example is likely only to list the heads of households, and may only list those who *owned* their property. Certain religious censuses listed only Protestants, others only Catholics. It is essential to understand the background of the source you are using to avoid assumptions that would hinder your research.

HOW TO FIND CENSUS SUBSTITUTES

Grenham, John. *Tracing your Irish Ancestors*, 3rd edition. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2006. FHL 941.5 D27gj 2006. Much of this book is now on-line at www.irishtimes.com/ancestor/browse (some parts are \$). The county-by-county listing of sources is also available as part of Grenham's *Irish Record Finder* CD-ROM, see page 2.

Census Finder-- <http://www.censusfinder.com/ireland.htm>

Register of Ireland Census and Census Substitutes. FHL British (Census Reference) 941.5 X23c 1985 Arranged by county and then by year, this shows what censuses and census substitutes were available in the FHL in 1985. Check *Smith's Inventory of Genealogical Sources* and the FHLC for more recently added materials (for example 1901 and 1911 censuses are not mentioned).

Smith's Inventory of Genealogical Sources. FHL 941.5 D23s v. 1-32. There are two volumes for subjects relating to all of Ireland, and then each county has its own volume. Arranged by time period and subject. Look under "Lists of Names" and other related subjects.

Family History Library Catalog. Look under the name of the parish, county, and country. Census substitutes will be under the topics like Census, Land and Property, Taxation, etc.

Hayes' Sources (various titles) – online at <http://sources.nli.ie>. Very extensive list of sources in Ireland. Journals of local genealogical societies. The FHL has many of these. Try the PERiodical Source Index (PERSI) at www.ancestry.com for a partial index. Or, browse through issues of one for your particular county. These are found in the FHLC under the county and the topic "Genealogy—Periodicals."

Contact a genealogical society or library for your county in Ireland. They might have publications and sources that exist nowhere else, and may not be listed anywhere else either. Look for these on www.genuki.org.uk and in Seamus Helferty and Raymond Refaussé, *A Directory of Irish Archives*, 3rd edition (Dublin, Ireland: Four Courts Press, 1999), FHL 941.5 J54ia 1999.

Try searching Google (www.google.com) or other search engine using key words such as the name of your county or parish and *census* or if you know it, the exact title you're looking for.

See the FamilySearch Research Wiki article "Ireland Census Substitutes" at www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Ireland_Census_Substitutes

For fascinating reading on how one Irish researcher used census substitutes to reconstitute his family line in Ireland, see Thomas Jones, "Organizing Meager Evidence to Reveal Lineages: An Irish Example—Geddes of Tyrone," *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 89 (June 2001): 98-112 (FHL US/Canada book 973 B2ng vol. 89, no. 2).

Always read the introduction if one exists, to find background information about the source you are using. The information you find here will greatly affect how you use the source and what you can glean from it. Always check to see if a particular census substitute exists for YOUR parish. Even if it is a source with very limited coverage, you may be lucky. You never know until you check.

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

Tithe Applotment

- Tithe Applotment, 1823-1837 tax record. Contains heads of households only, covers both those who leased land as well as those who owned land. Because it was based on land holding, the Tithe has few records for cities or large towns. It is estimated to contain only 40% of all heads of households.
- FamilySearch.org indexes all tithe applotments--browse to Ireland to restrict search to these records.
- Searchable at <http://titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie/search/tab/index.jsp> – also browseable.
- CD series 9 part 262 (available at the Library Attendant window on the B2 floor) indexes Northern Ireland only—this index also on www.ancestry.com (\$, free at FHL).
- The *Householder's Index* indexes the Tithe Applotment for all 32 counties, county by county, parish by parish. It is FHL book 941.5 R22i v. 1-14, FHL films 919001-7.
- Found in the Family History Library Catalog (FHLC) under Ireland—Land and Property *Tithe Applotment Books and Indexes, for Northern Ireland, 1822-1837* or *Applotment Books, abt. 1824-1840* for the Republic. At the FHL use the register in the reference area.

Griffith's Valuation

- Griffith's Primary General Valuation, 1848-1864 tax record. Contains heads of households only, covers both those who leased land as well as those who owned land. It has an estimated coverage of 80-90% of all heads of households.
- A free index with images of the original and maps is at www.askaboutireland.ie.
- www.failteromhat.com/griffiths.com search by surname, townland, or parish (No images or maps).
- CD series 9 part 188 (available at the Library Attendant window on the B2 floor) indexes all of Ireland, except for some accidental omissions—this index also on www.ancestry.com.
- John Grenham's *Irish Record Finder*, an excellent program which among other things provides tallied totals of surname distribution to the parish level based on the Griffith's Valuation.
- Completely indexed with scanned images at www.irishorigins.com (\$ - with some valuation maps).
- Both the Tithe and Griffith's are indexed in the *Householder's Index*, FHL 941.5 R22i v. 1-14, films 919001-919007.
- On microfilm, found in the FHLC under Ireland—Land and Property *General Valuation of Rateable Property in Northern Ireland, 1858-1864* or *General Valuation of Rateable Property, 1847-1861* for the Republic. Or use the register in the reference area on B2.

Other records in connection with Griffith's Valuation:

- Valuation Lists (also known as Cancel Books, Revision Books), 1850s-20th century. These are lists of occupiers kept subsequent to the Primary Valuation. You can trace who held a tenement from generation to generation in these books. The FHL has these for the Republic only. They are cataloged under the county and then "Land and Property."
- There were several surveys taken under the direction of Richard Griffith in preparation for the Primary Valuation. Among these are Field Books, Tenure Books, House Books and Quarto Books. Again, these are on film at the FHL for the Republic of Ireland only. They may be found in the FHLC under Ireland and then the topic "Land and Property," then look for the title "Valuation Books" with the author "Ireland. General Valuation Office." Many more names are listed in i.e. Tenure Books than in Griffiths Valuation Lists. For a good overview and historical background on these books, see David Ouimette, "Irish Townland and Tenement Valuation Manuscripts," *The Septs*, v. 27 no. 1 (Jan 2006), FHL British book 941.5 D25s v.27, no.1.

For background information on both of these sources, please refer to James Reilly, *Richard Griffith and His Valuations of Ireland* (Baltimore, Maryland : Printed for Clearfield Co. by Genealogical Pub. Co., 2000), FHL British Ref book 941.5 R43rj).

Old Age Pension Claims

These records were based on searches made in the 1841 and 1851 censuses (before they were destroyed) by people hoping to prove their eligibility for the Old Age Pension that began in 1908. If you ancestor was not in Ireland at this point, search for siblings—some of them may be unknown to you, so try searching by place instead of name. The title “Census search forms for the 1841-1851 censuses of Ireland” has a place index for each county.

- Use a “Keyword” search in the FHLC with the terms *Ireland Old Age Pension* to find original records and indexes.
- The website www.ireland-genealogy.com claims to have indexed these records, but apparently you have to send them money in advance and they will search for you.

Famine emigration schemes

During the years of the great potato famine (1846-1850) and in subsequent years, many estate owners felt it was less expensive to pay for the passage of their tenants to America than to try to provide for them in Ireland. These people for whom the landlords paid the passage are typically only listed in estate records and poor law records in Ireland. These records are un-indexed--you must know the area your person was from to use them.

School records

These typically begin in the mid-to-late nineteenth century. The most valuable are the school registers themselves, which record the age of the pupil, religion, father's address and occupation, and general observations. Unfortunately, the Republic of Ireland has made no attempt to gather these records and they remain in the custody of local schools or churches. The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland has a collection of over 1,500 registers for schools in the six counties of Northern Ireland. The FHL has many of these on film. Teacher employment records can be useful for tracking teachers.

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

Freeholders Lists

“Freeholders' records are lists of people entitled to vote, or of people who voted, at elections. A freeholder was a man who owned his land outright (in fee) or who held it by lease which could be for one or more lives (for example, his own life or for the lives of other people named in the lease). From 1727 to 1793 only Protestants with a freehold worth at least 40 shillings a year were legally permitted to vote. Between 1793 and 1829 both Protestants and Catholics with 40 shilling freeholds could vote, but in 1829 the franchise level was increased to 10 pounds, so 40 shilling freeholders were no longer allowed to vote. This last measure increased the influence of landlords by effectively confining membership of Parliament to the propertied or moneyed classes.”

--Quoted from http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/search_the_archives/freeholders_records.htm which has online indexes to many freeholders' lists.

Elphin Diocesan census, 1749

The Church of Ireland diocese of Elphin covered parts of Roscommon, Sligo, and Galway. This census lists every head of household, whether married or not, and how many children under 14 and 14 and above were in the household. Indexed on www.originsnetwork.com (\$), some parishes are free online, try a Google search.

Convert Rolls

Majority of entries date from 1760-1790. List of those converting from Catholicism to the Church of Ireland. Printed by the Irish Manuscripts Commission, edited by Eileen O'Byrne.

Religious Censuses

Taken in 1740 and 1766. The Family History Library has microfilmed both these censuses. Used to identify numbers of Catholics—Catholics or “popish” equated to rebel. Many have been published. Excellent source for surname distribution, however, only covers selected counties, mostly in Ulster.

1740 indexed on www.newenglandancestors.org (\$, free at FHL) for Antrim, Derry and Donegal.

1766 indexed on www.ancestry.com (mostly Northern Ireland) or *An Index to the 1766 religious census of Ireland* FHL British Library Attendant Window 6394349.

1796 Spinning Wheel Premium

Anyone who planted at least one rood (a rood was a quarter of an acre) of flax was entitled to a spinning wheel from the government. Although there are entries for every county, the best coverage is in Ulster where flax growing and linen making was a large industry. Indexed on *The Flax Growers Bounty List, 1796* by Family Tree Maker, FHL CD series 9 pt. 271 a, available at the FHL British library attendant window. Also on FHL film 1419442, and on www.ancestry.com.

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

Muster Rolls

Lists of local militia, mainly taken in the year 1630. They are mostly on large Ulster landed estates.

Origins of English and Scottish planters of Ulster

See *The Plantation of Ulster*, FHL 941.6 H2rp.

The Civil Survey

Massive confiscation of tribal lands of Irish Catholics which were redistributed to English soldiers and adventurers. Conducted in 1654-56—listed owners of land in 1640 and listed new owners after redistribution. All surviving surveys have been published by the Irish Manuscripts commission.

Books of Survey and Distribution

Taken from the Civil Survey and the Gross Survey but also lists 1640 proprietors and owners after “distribution.” Notes the changes after the Cromwellian resettlement of 1659.

1659 “Census”

Compiled by Sir William Petty, this records names of persons with title to land (“tituladoes”).

Records total number of English and Irish in each townland and lists the principal Irish names in each barony. Does not cover Cavan, Galway, Mayo, Tyrone, or Wicklow.

Hearth Money Rolls

Taken in the years 1664-1666, it was based on the number of hearths in a home. It lists householders’ names in each parish. Many are published in periodicals.

Subsidy Rolls

Enumerated in 1662-1666, this lists names of nobility, clergy and laity who aided the King.

Principally related to counties in province of Ulster.

Catholic Qualification Rolls

After 1692 a series of “Penal Laws” were enacted, severely restricting Catholics in land ownership banning them from holding public offices, etc. An oath of allegiance qualified them to hold land.

Published in the 59th *Report of the Deputy Keeper of Public Records*, FHL 941.5 A5r nos. 58-59.

Freeman’s records

A freeman was someone who had “freedom of the city”. Admission to this privilege was by service in an apprenticeship, by birth (if you were the son a freeman), by marriage (if you married the daughter of a freeman), and by fine. Many are printed and in manuscript form from the 1650s on.

There are many, many, more census substitutes. Some cover a broad area, but there are many that are particular to a specific parish or town--the key is knowing where to hunt for them. . . .

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